

EXCERPTS FROM ITALIAN JOURNALS.

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RESULTS OBTAINED BY SUSPENSION IN CASES OF TABES.

("Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria e di Medicina Legale," 1889.)

Suspension was practised a number of times in eleven cases, with the result that, with the exception of two cases, there was an improvement in walking, but no alleviation of the pains. The results of the experiments neither contradicted nor affirmed those of Salpêtrière.

CONCERNING MOTOR HALLUCINATION.

(Notes by Prof. A. Tamburini, "Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria e di Medicina Legale," vol. xv., fasc. iv., p. 444.)

The writer reports the case of a peasant of low intelligence, twenty-seven years old, who at fifteen, after a grave affection, had an attack of melancholy, in which she had a hallucination of hearing a voice which said to her, "Lost forever," which lasted about four months. In March, 1888, after she had been married a short time, she had a return of melancholia, was apathetic and sleepless; she had also some dysmenorrhœa and leucorrhœa. She said that "words formed themselves in her mouth." When she attempted to take food, she felt come into her mouth the words, "Thou couldst eat a serpent," "Thou couldst swallow a live toad." When praying there would be maledictions against divinity and obscene expressions. Later she was obliged to repeat in a high voice the words which formed themselves continually in her mouth, which she must repeat in a rapid manner. She also had clonic spasms. There was a light rhythmical movement in the tongue and in its tip, accompanied by a sound which could be heard when her mouth was closed. Her lips were motionless. There were also clonic spasms in single groups of muscular fibres, especially those used in articulation.

The psychical examination was imperfect, owing to the limited intelligence of the patient. The physical examination showed that the cranio-facial type tended to the cutinoid; forehead low; nose flat; intermittent asymmetry of the pupil; oscillatory movement of various muscles of the face; sensibility normal, and symmetrical for both sides of the body; organic functions normal.

The author, after reviewing the case and the literature of the subject, including the various theories, comes to the following conclusions:

1. That besides the purely sensory hallucinations, it is of interest to distinguish the motor hallucination, which displays itself more especially in the movements relating to speech, but may also show itself in any part of the body capable of movement.

2. That the seat of this last kind of hallucination ought to be located in the cerebral cortex.

3. That according to the degree of irritation of these same centres, there would be simple hallucination of movement or the transformation of this into an inconvertible impulse, even to a relative convulsion.

4. That, moreover, taking specially into account the physiological and clinical data, in which is admitted the mixed sensory-motor nature of all the cortical centres, there is, in every hallucination a part proportioned to that belonging to each centre, so much of the sensory image as is appropriate to the motor.

Miscellany.

THE SOLVENT PROPERTIES OF BUFFALO LITHIA WATER.

The "Virginia Medical Monthly," Dec., 1889, contains a paper by Dr. John Herbert Claiborne, of Petersburg, Va., in which an account is given of a case of severe lithiasis treated effectually by large doses of lithia water. The patient had a violent attack of nephritic colic in August last, passing gravel from the kidney into the bladder, where it remained several weeks, setting up severe inflammation and causing distressing symptoms, and finally forming a calculus. Crushing the stone or performing lithotomy was considered inexpedient on account of the intense inflammation. The patient was put to bed, the diet restricted to milk, and opium suppositories administered in sufficient doses to relieve tenesmus and pain. The patient drank from half a gallon to a gallon of Buffalo lithia water, and in about ten days commenced to pass in surprising quantities what appeared to be the detritus of the gravel. Urine that had been deposited on a clean board, left, in evaporating, about a drachm or two of sediment like whitewash, containing phosphates, urates, etc. This continued for a week. Then the bladder was washed out with a warm solution of boracic acid, and the patient, at the time of writing, reported himself well and free for the first time from all kidney or